

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended as set forth above for clarity. Applicants assert that the claims are directed to a very different invention than that described in the cited reference. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. No new matter has been added. No additional searching is required in that the independent claims have been amended to include features that were associated with the dependent claims.

I. Examiner Interview Dated September 18, 2007

An interview was held on September 18, 2007. An agreement as to allowability was not reached. The current amendments herein were discussed. Per the conversation, this amendment is filed with a Request for Continued Examination.

II. Claim Objections

The dependency of claims 19-24 is objected to in the Office Action. The claims have been amended as set forth above to depend from claim 18.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101

Claims 26-30 are rejected to under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the Office Action asserts that the claims recite a computer-readable medium which implicates a carrier wave. This statement is incorrect because the claims recite a computer readable *storage* medium. Reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 18-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,566,328 issued to Eastep (hereinafter "Eastep"). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection. Eastep is being misinterpreted. Independent claim 18 includes the following combination of features that is not taught or suggested by Eastep:

receiving *a pathname* from a requesting component *wherein the pathname includes a variable that identifies at least one member of a group comprising: a*

current user of the requesting component, and a location of the requesting component within a network;

identifying the variable *in the pathname*;

mapping the variable to a value;

modifying the pathname by including the value *in the pathname*;

resolving the pathname to a handle for an object associated with the value; and

returning the handle for the object to the requesting component for access to the object.

Eastep fails to teach or otherwise suggest the above combination of features. Eastep pertains to a **file handle**. Eastep teaches that the process of locating a file using a pathname is called pathname resolution. The product of pathname resolution is a file handle. *See Eastep* at col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 1. Eastep teaches that in some systems the same file may be located with multiple pathnames. This poses a problem with the file handle because the filename cannot be regenerated from the file handle. *See Eastep* at col. 3, lines 24-42. With regard to a Link ID, Eastep teaches that the link Id is essentially a count of the number of links to a file. *Eastep* at col. 4, line 34-39. In this manner, the file handle includes a link number which can be used to determine the pathname that was used for accessing the file. Eastep does not teach "receiving a pathname from a requesting component wherein the pathname includes a variable that identifies at least one member of a group comprising: a current user of the requesting component, and a location of the requesting component within a network." Again, Eastep is teaching a Link Id that identifies two linked paths in a directory. Accordingly, applicants believe that claim 18 is allowable.

Independent claim 26 includes the following combination of features that is not taught or suggested by Eastep:

receiving *a pathname* from a requesting component, wherein the pathname includes a prefix and a variable *that identifies a user of the requesting component*;

identifying the variable *in the pathname that identifies the user of the requesting component*, wherein the variable is identified from the prefix;

mapping the variable *that identifies the user of the requesting component* to a value that implicates the current user of the requesting component;

modifying *the pathname by replacing the variable that identifies the user of the requesting component with the value*;

resolving the pathname to a handle for an object associated with the value; and

returning the handle for the object to the requesting component for access to the object.

Eastep fails to teach or otherwise suggest the above combination of features. Eastep does not teach "receiving a pathname from a requesting component, wherein the pathname includes a prefix and a variable that identifies a user of the requesting component." Again, Eastep is teaching a Link Id that identifies two linked paths in a directory. Accordingly, applicants believe that claim 26 is allowable.

Independent claim 31 includes the following combination of features that is not taught or suggested by Eastep:

a requesting component associated with a user mode, wherein the requesting component is configured to send a pathname, receive an object handle, and obtain an object associated with the object handle, *wherein the pathname includes a variable that identifies at least one member of a group comprising: a current user of the requesting component, and a location of the requesting component within a network*;

a variable identifier component associated with the user mode, wherein the variable identifier component is configured to identify the variable;

a data store component associated with a kernel mode, wherein the data store component includes mappings that map the variable to a value; and

a pathname engine component associated with the kernel mode, wherein the pathname engine component is configured to receive the pathname from the requesting component, request evaluation of the pathname from the variable identifier component, receive an identified variable from the variable identifier component, access the data store component to receive a value associated with the identified variable, obtain a modified pathname that includes the value, and return an object handle to the requesting component that is based on the modified pathname that includes the value.

Eastep fails to teach or otherwise suggest the above combination of features. Eastep does not teach "a requesting component associated with a user mode, wherein the requesting component is configured to send a pathname, receive an object handle, and obtain an object associated with the object handle, wherein the pathname includes a variable that identifies at least one member of a group comprising: a current user of the requesting component, and a location of the requesting component within a network." Again, Eastep is teaching a Link Id that identifies two linked paths in a directory. Furthermore, applicants can find no teaching whatsoever in the cited portion of Eastep of a pathname engine component as recited above. Accordingly, applicants believe that claim 31 is allowable.

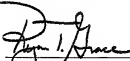
With regard to the dependent claims, they include features not taught or suggested by the cited reference. Furthermore, those claims ultimately depend from the independent claims above. As such, they should be found allowable for at least those same reasons.

V. Request for Reconsideration

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



Ryan T. Grace
Registration No. 52,956
Direct Dial: 206.342.6258

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
206.342.6200

